(d) if so, the steps taken/to be taken to ensure safety of common people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Law and order being a State subject, primary responsibility for security of stations and railways lies with the respective State Governments. Railways on their part have taken various steps to strengthen the security of stations and trains.

(c) Security personnel are being checked by superior and subordinate officers during their duty hours. Strict action is being taken against erring security personnel as per existing rules.

(d) (i) An Integrated Security System is being implemented over all stations (including sub-urban stations) of Metro cities of Chennai, Delhi, Kolkata and Mumbai and other vulnerable/sensitive stations of Indian Railways. This system comprises of the following broad areas:—

(a) CCTV System.

(b) Access control.

(c) Personal and baggage screening system.

(d) Explosive detection and disposal system.

(ii) Important trains are escorted by Railway Protection Force/Government Railway Police.

(iii) Sniffer dogs are being utilized to detect explosives, in the trains and Railway areas.

(iv) Access control at the stations has been tightened in coordination with Government Railway Police.

(v) Regular announcements over public address system are made for alerting the passengers.

(vi) Surprise checks are conducted by Railway Protection Force Officers in trains and at stations.

(vii) Regular coordination is maintained and intelligence is exchanged among Railway Protection Froce, Government Railway Police, State Police and Intelligence agencies of State and Central Government.

Special trains to Kathgodam

141. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that there is heavy rush of passengers/tourists to visit Nainital and other hill stations in Kumaon region in Uttarakhand especially during the Puja Season upto the new year;

(b) if so, considering the same whether Government would start Special Trains to Kathgodam during the aforesaid period to tide over the heavy rush of passengers/tourists;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The demand of traffic in all trains running on Indian Railways including those going towards Kathgodam varies from train to train and class to class. During the period under question, last year, there was heavy waiting list only in one train going to Kathgodam whereas in other trains the accommodation was more than adequate. At present, accommodation is generally available for booking in all classes in the trains going to Kathgodam from November onwards.

(b) to (d) To clear the extra rush during puja season this year, Railways are running 0363A/0364A Sealdah-Kathgodam-Sealdah Special and attaching extra coaches to 5308/5307 Lalkuan-Aishbagh-Lalkuan Express and 3020/3019 Howrah-Kathgodam-Howrah Bagh Express.

Besides, three trains *viz.* No. 2210/2209 Kathgodam-Kanpur Central Garib Rath (weekly), 2207/2208 Kathgodam-Jammu Tawi Garib Rath (weekly) and 5035A/5036A Delhi-Ramnagar Link Express (daily) have been introduced during the current financial year.

Construction of Patan-Bhiladi missing link

142. SHRI VIJAYKUMAR RUPANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work relating to preparation of plan, estimates, etc. has been completed regarding construction of Patan-Bhiladi missing link in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the construction work would likely be taken up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The details estimate for Palan-Bhiladi has been prepared at the cost of Rs. 255.46 crore.

(c) The work would be taken up once the estimate is sanctioned and land is handed over by State Government.

Facility to fleeing labourers from Kashmir

143. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that terrorist groups in Kashmir have ordered 'Poorvi' (Uttar Pradesh and Bihar) labourers to leave Kashmir and thousands of them and their family are fleeing Kashmir to go back to Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand *etc.* and crowding Jammu railway station; and

(b) if so, whether Railways' authorities have made arrangements to facilitate their transportation to their destinations despite they are not having even money to purchase tickets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) It is a fact that thousands of labourers left Kashmir valley and are returning to Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.